

## **Arthur H. Guenther Congressional Fellowship Program**

***Deadline for 2009-2010 Arthur H. Guenther Congressional Fellowship applications:  
Friday, January 9, 2009***

OSA and SPIE offer a congressional fellowship program providing members with an invaluable opportunity of public policy learning. Fellows gain a perspective that enhances their industrial, academic or government careers and the optics community's ability to more effectively communicate with Congress. The Fellowship is an ideal way to spend an academic sabbatical or leave of absence from a company.

### **A Unique Opportunity**

The Arthur H. Guenther Congressional Fellow works in the office of a U.S. Senator or Representative or with a congressional committee to get first-hand knowledge of congressional operations, contribute to the policymaking process, and forge links among the engineering, scientific, and public policy communities.

### **Term**

Fellowships are normally for one year, running September through August. The Guenther Fellow will join more than two dozen other scientists and engineers in early September 2008 for an intensive orientation program on the legislative and executive branches. This program is organized by the American Association for the Advancement of Science ([AAAS](#)), which also provides educational and collegial programs for the Fellow throughout the year. Following interviews on the Hill, Fellows choose a congressional office – personal or committee staff – where they wish to serve. Fellows are expected to handle varied assignments, both technical and non-technical.

A stipend of \$58,000 is provided by OSA and SPIE, and additional support from other sources, such as a present employer, is permitted. The Societies also provide an allowance for health insurance, travel, and relocation expenses to the Washington, D.C. area. Final selection of the Fellow will be made in March/April 2009 after personal interviews are conducted.

### **Qualifications**

Fellows are evaluated on the basis of technical competence, responsible work experience, ability to serve in a public environment and evidence of service to OSA, SPIE and the profession. Prospective Fellows must have a Ph.D. or equivalent doctoral level degree by program orientation (September 1, 2009); significant familiarity with optical engineering or science disciplines; a working understanding of the optical engineering and science communities; and demonstrated interest in the United States public policy process. Although prior experience in public policy is not necessary, a demonstrable interest in applying science and engineering to the solution of United States policy issues is required. Federal employees are not eligible. U.S. citizenship is not required; however, applicants must be authorized to work in the United States. Applicants should have excellent interpersonal and communication skills and possess the flexibility to tackle a variety of work. Specifically excluded as selection criteria are age, sex, creed, race, ethnic background, and partisan political affiliation.

## Application

Applications must be postmarked by Friday, January 9, 2009. Candidates should submit the following materials:

- A detailed **resume or curriculum vitae** providing information about educational background, professional employment and activities, professional publications and presentations, public policy and legislative experience and committee and advisory group appointments
- A **statement of approximately 1,000 words addressing the applicant's interest** in the fellowship, career goals, contributions the applicant believes he or she can make as an Guenther Fellow to the legislative process and what the applicant wants to learn from the experience
- **Three signed letters of reference** sent directly to the address below, specifically addressing the applicant's ability to work on Capitol Hill as a special legislative assistant. Letters of reference may be emailed directly to [astark@osa.org](mailto:astark@osa.org), but **must** be in PDF format, on official letterhead and include an electronic or scanned signature.

### Application Materials Should be Mailed or Emailed to:

Arthur H. Guenther Congressional Fellowship Program  
c/o Angela Stark  
Optical Society of America  
2010 Massachusetts Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20036  
Office: 202.416.1443  
Email: [astark@osa.org](mailto:astark@osa.org)

NOTE: Applicants applying for both the Arthur H. Guenther and OSA/MRS Congressional Fellowship can send in one set of application materials for both fellowships, as long as it is noted that the materials are for both fellowships.